MEDIATOR.

Quid cito ſenescit? quid tarde? Gratia, & Injuria.
Laerk. L. 5.
Injuriæ memoria tenaſſima eſt, & Beneficii breviſſima.
K. Rochford (E.) pseud. Eraſm. Apop.

A PAPER, will no doubt ſurprize the Public, that carries in its Titule, the *ſtrange* Sound of *Mediation*, at a Time when *Diviſion* ſeparates the jarring Croud, and triumpant fills her baleful Throne. But it ſhould not be at all ſurprizing. For as all Things in the *Natural* and *Moral* Worlds, tho', ſeemingly, ever ſo contradictory to one another, have *Union* as the Center Point of *Reſt*, in which they end their different *Courſes*; ſo as well the more tranſitory, as permanent, as well the more violent, as leſs ſanguine, *Diſcords*, do gradually *worry* themſelves into *Unity*:——Becauſe as they have not their *Foundation* in Nature, they cannot ſubſiſt; being only the proper *Effects* of turbulent Paſſions, miſtaken Ambition, ungovernable Licentiouſneſs.

As I have no Intereſt in View, nor Prejudice in Mind, I have conſequently no Byaſs on my Judgment. Therefore, whatever *Faults* may be obſerved throughout this impartial, but ſummary, View, which I am reſolved to take of ſome Principal Proceedings relative to the reigning Diſputes, they may be juſtly charged to the *humanæ Errata* that is not in my Power to avoid; rather than any Act of the Will.

By

about 1748

By this Paper, I mean not to offend either, or any Party, but to ſhew that each, and every, of the contending Parties, are in ſome, if not in ſeveral Things highly blameable. And this may poſſibly give each a Self-Conviction, becauſe it may give each a Picture of their Errors, without the ſtingings of pointed Satyr, the ſmartneſs of Home-felt Invective, or the bitterneſs of bald Scurility.

Is *Lucas Praiſe* worthy for any *Act*, is he *blameable* for any Crime? His Pretenſions to the former, are not altogether without Foundation, a Charge of the latter, would not be altogether unjuſt.

To purſue *Truth*, through the more than cunning Mazes of Iniquity; to penetrate the almoſt impregnable Ambuſcades of *Power*, ſnatch forth the Charmer from the dark Shades of Silence, and preſent her naked to Public View, are Acts, not ſlightly undeſerving of the higheſt Gratitude; the moſt ſignal Marks of Honour, that generous Hearts can nobly yield; or that virtuous Acts do juſtly claim.

But to come at ſuch *Truths*, by ungenerous or indirect *Means*, to profane the ſacred Aſhes of the memorable Dead, or to blaſt the invaluable Reputation of the virtuous Living, (eſpecially when not *neceſſary*) are Acts ſo baſe and inhumane, that it is a Doubt, but the *Guilt* of ſuch Crimes, and the *Merit* of the before-mentioned Virtues, would in the Scale of *Juſtice* hold a balanced Counterpoize through the Round of Eternity.

Theſe

These are laid down, but as *Positions*; for it is not the intent of this Paper to assertain *Facts*; there being so many Scribblers *Pro* and *Con*, already employed in the proving, or rather protruding Guilt on one another, that I shall not venture to dirty my Jacket among them. Yet to draw some general *Conclusion*; I must say that I believe *Lucas* discover'd many *Truths* necessary to be known, many *Grievances* necessary to be redressed:——And I believe that he has traduced the Memory of some good Men when living, and impeached the Morals of some virtuous Men now alive.

As this Paper is intended to sow the Seeds of Self-Conviction in all Parties, (themselves being Judges of the *Truth* of Facts,) I shall leave the Truth of these Things to be determined by *Lucas* himself, who knows the secret Movements of his own Soul! If he is conscious that he has done the former, let him bravely persist in, and boldly assertain them; every noble Wish to crown his Labours with Success!——If he is conscious that he has done the latter, let him prudently refrain from, and piously repent of them; every sincere Prayer forward the Christian Act!

Has *Lucas* maintained his Cause with *necessary*, with manly, Zeal; has he extended that Zeal to Concernments, that do not fall much short of Crime? The Syllable—*Yes*—may perhaps justly answer *both*.

Was it a *necessary* Zeal, that induced him to acquire a Knowledge of, and to reveal to the Public, the iniquitious Proceedings, in Times remote or recent, of

a Set of Men that aimed to reach at deſpotic Sway? Was it a *manly* Zeal that ſupported an unſhaken Reſolution in ſuch laudible Purſuit?

Did he miſtake the due Limits of ſuch Zeal; did he extend it to the Concernment of Things that rendered it criminal? Did he arrogantly, or miſtakenly, avert it from the deſired, from the *benificial*, End of his Labours; and did the dazling Tremours of this unconfined Fire, like an *Ignis Fatuus*, wantonly lead him into Quaggs, and Ditches; did he ſtray after its wandering Flames into Fields of Action too expanſive for ſo puny a Traveller? Did he hunt a Shadow, which at every eager Stride kept ſtill its wonted Diſtance, whilſt he forgot, or at leaſt neglected, a more attainable, and of Courſe more uſeful Subſtance? I mean, did he dabble in the Conſideration of (I may venture to ſay) irremidable Caſes, as uſeleſsly and yet as well, conſidered before; Things fully eſtabliſhed by Law, more than fully ſecured by Power; and which he, nor ten thouſand in his Capacity, could not alter in any Degree; when the more home-felt Shock, the more poignant *Injury*, the more remediable Grievances, he aſſerted to be from Alderman to Freemen, ſhould be the only *Center* of his Courſe, the only Object of his Wiſhes, the only Subject of his Labours?

Are theſe Things ſo? Is he poſſeſſed of ſuch *neceſſary*, manly, Zeal; did ſuch his Zeal take the licentious Wing, and carry him into unſtable Regions of Error? He knows beſt; a Self-Examination will certainly

tainly inform, a Self-Conviction, must undoubtedly reprove. But if so; let him limit the Flights of wandering Zeal, let him collect and confine the Rays of its Warmth, to give them greater Energy for the useful Point designed; and in this, may every good Man assist!——And let him remedy to his Power, the criminal Errors of his Zeal, let him never wander in the same mistaken Paths; to effectuate which, may every Guardian Angel of our Isle contribute!

Have the Commons in any Part of their Proceedings against *Lucas* erred; did *Lucas* do any Act relative to such Proceedings, that renders him bleamable? This is a moot Case, a critical Point: yet not quite so obscure, as to Prevent our seeing, that the *Commons* are justly chargeable with some Error; that *Lucas* is truly blameable for some Misdemeanour.

The, at best, precipitant Rigour, the injudicious, if not erroneous, Proceedings of the *Commons*, in voting a Paragraph false, scandalous and malicious, which in its Tenor, as well as literal Sense of the Words, only *implyed* an Assertion, only *charged* a Supposition; prove this. *2dly*, in publishing, such Vote so immediately, to the irretrievable Injury of the Writer's Character before they gave him Time, or even called upon him, to prove the *Truth* of what he alledged, either by Assertion or Supposition, as aforesaid. I believe, it will appear upon cool and impartial Consideration, to any indifferent Person (at least to me it does; who have read all the Papers published on this Head) that the latter

latter Act, of publiſhing ſo immediately their Vote, was at beſt, but a *precipitant Rigour*; that the former, of grounding ſuch Vote upon no other, and ſo ſlender, a *Foundation* as an Affidavit of one intereſted Perſon, who did not even attempt thereby, to aſſertain *ſufficient* ſatisfactory Points for that Purpoſe, was an injudicious, if not erroneous Proceeding.

To clear this Matter a little more fully; (which I judged at firſt would plague me in this manner) Let us ſee, whether this Paragraph mentioned, in its Tenor and Words, amounts to more than the ſtrange Thing mentioned——*an implyed Aſſertion*——a *charged* Suppoſition.

It was an *implied* Aſſertion. The Paragraph ſays, "When I found upon "ſpeaking to ſome of my Acquaintance, "that you, Gentlemen of the Commons, "were as uſual but partially ſummoned;" here is where he makes his *Aſſertion*; and its clearly *implied*, that his Reaſon for aſſerting it, was his being told it, upon ſpeaking to ſome of his Acquaintance:—And he is not the firſt that has been miſinformed; therefore he ſhould in *common Juſtice* be called upon, and have reaſonable Time to prove the *Truth* of this Matter; and if not, to oblige him publickly to recant his Error, and confeſs the Falſehood of the Paragraph: Which, or either of which, if he *failed*, or *refuſed*, to do, then would it be *neceſſary* for every *honeſt* Commoner, *for the Sake of Truth*, to give his Voice for ſuch *Vote*, and his Conſent to have it publiſhed.

2*dly*, It was no more than a *charged* Supposition. The Paragraph says: " For I *must* suppose none were called, but such as were deemed Vassals enough, &c."

It is I think clear, that there was not upon Consideration such *mighty Cause*, for such rigorous Proceedings (from the Commons *especially*) against a Man who at least professed, to be a zealous *Champion* for what was all along sayed to be their Cause. And I do not think it a Check to my Conscience, (since they did not give the Man that Justice which every Man should in such Cases have as above mentioned,) to believe that the whole, was at best but a precipitant Rigour, an injudicious if not erroneous Proceeding.

If I had Time or Room, I might add many Things as well to clear as strengthen what I have spoken to this Point. Because, I might particularly have sayed, that the Affidavit mentioned, tho' made by an interested Man who had Leave and Time to form it, I mean a Man whose Character was at Stake, being attacked by *Lucas*, yet it was not so strong, so clear, or satisfactory, as to be *sufficient* Cause for Men to proceed to any *judicial* or definitive Proceeding whatsoever: and particularly such as could even hazard an Injury to any Creature. Besides its evident that *Lucas* proved in the Affidavit many Errors, in his fifth Letter; and it was not only deficient in these Points, but it was upon the Face of itself pregnant of an Absurdity:—however I am glad I have done with it.

Let us now turn to the infallible *Charley*, and see whether he is capable of being *truly* liable

liable to blame for any Miſdemeanour relative to this Point.——*Lord* how happy am I! that am not concerned for any Party, but can freely judge of all.

1*ſt*, I believe a cool impartial Man, would think him blameable for the Vehemence, Indiſcretion, and unbecoming Impetuoſity of his 4th and even 5th Letter.

2*dly*, I believe particularly that an impartial man would think him *truly* blameable, if not erroneous, in charging the *Lord-Mayor* and whole *Board* of *Aldermen*, with being concerned in hatching, contriving, or forming the Affidavit above-mentioned. For I believe there are Men of the Board that ſcorn any baſe, low, ſiniſter or ungenerous Act, as much as any Men living. There are, I believe, many other bitter and unbecoming, if not perhaps erroneous Charges through his Writings, that might fall under this Head, but I have ſtretched my Paper beyond the intended Length. Yet I can't avoid concluding from the whole of this Point, that the *Commons* did not treat *Lucas* ſo *juſtly* as they ſhould, that he did not uſe them ſo *civily* as he ought.

I pray that from Self-Conviction, the Mighty may do *Juſtice with Mercy*; and that the leſs Powerful may behave *modeſtly* from a Spirit of *Meekneſs*! Thus will our heated Broils, our controverted Jarrs be ſwallowed up in the glorious Center of Peace, Unity, and Brotherly Love So be it.

THO. WISHFOR'T,
Prime Secretary to the Inſpector General of the Clouds.